

US EOV on HRC 18 Right to Development resolution, L.15, as-delivered by Amb. Donahoe
September 30, 2011

(transcribed from video by DBS, 6/21/12,

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/tv/webcast/2011/09/vote-on-l-15-item1-38th-plenary-meeting-18th-session.html>

starting at 22:46

Thank you, Madame President.

The United States delegation was pleased to participate
in the panel discussion on "the way
forward in the realization of the right to development."

And we are committed to finding ways we can work together constructively and make the
right to development a uniting, rather than divisive, issue on the
international human rights agenda. Unfortunately, we
have decided we must call a vote and abstain on this resolution, because it does not reflect one of
our core concerns.

We have stated very clearly that we are not prepared to
join consensus on the possibility of negotiating a binding
international agreement based on concepts that the right to development currently envisages. As
we stated earlier in the plenary debate on the right to development, we remain firm in our
conviction that discussion of the right to development can only bear fruit if it is firmly anchored
to a human rights perspective, namely a discussion of how individuals enjoy the right to
development and how states, both in upholding their obligations and in cooperation with one
another, can best promote and protect this right. .

In that regard, we are disappointed that the suggestions to add previously-accepted language
from the Vienna Declaration, reaffirming the human person is
the central subject of development, were not given due
consideration.

Nevertheless, we will engage constructively with the
Open-Ended Working Group on the Right to Development, during its
upcoming session on November 14-18. We are ready and willing to participate in a discussion
that would lead to unity of purpose on the right to development and that would crystallize a view
of the right to development consistent with human rights standards and lead to genuine progress
in the promotion and protection of those human rights that a properly defined right to
development could encompass.

Thank you very much.